

**RIDGEFIELD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MEETING OF DECEMBER 17, 2024**

The meeting of the Ridgefield Free Public Library Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Treasurer Debbie Kontolios. Treasurer Kontolios read the Open Public Meeting Statement.

**ATTENDANCE**

In attendance were Ms. Rose Huzovic, Mrs. Bonnie Ilch,, Ms. Daisy Jimenez, Mayor Hugo Jimenez, Ms. Debbie Kontolios, Ms. Marilena Ojeda. Also present were Borough Council Library Liaisons Councilmembers Joanna Leigh Congalton-Hali and James Kontolios.

Mayor Hugo Jimenez swore in the Mayor's Alternate, Ms. Anna Maric.

A copy of the November 26, 2024 minutes was reviewed by the Board. Upon a motion made by Mrs. Jin Kye, and seconded by Mrs. Bonnie Ilch, the minutes were unanimously approved by the Board.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Board reviewed the Treasurer's Reports covering November 30, 2024, read by Ms. Kontolios. A motion to accept the report was made by Ms. Rose Huzovic and seconded by Mrs. Bonnie Ilch. The motion was carried unanimously.

The Library Budget Committee meeting will be tabled to the following month, as there were changes to the numbers.

The audit will be voted on in the next meeting.

**VENDOR SHEET**

The Vendor Sheet dated December 17, 2024, was examined and discussed. A motion to accept the Vendor Sheet was made by Mrs. Ilch and seconded by Mrs. Jin Kye. Treasurer Debbie Kontolios took a roll call vote. The motion was carried unanimously.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

The December Library Update, prepared by Acting Library Director Yilin Sheng, was read by Treasurer Debbie Kontolios.  
December 17, 2024

Library Update by Yilin Sheng

- 12/7 Upholsteries cleaned by Bergen Carpet.
- 12/9 Heat fixed by All County.
- 12/9 BCCLS Diverse and Underserved Populations
  - Committee meeting attended by Aviva Rosenberg.
- 12/10 Library Budget Committee meeting.
- 12/11 Friends of Library meeting & Holiday Party.
- 12/19 BCCLS System Council meeting will be attended by Aviva Rosenberg.

**FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY**

The Friends of the Ridgefield Library will have their monthly meeting on Wednesday January 15, 2025 at 1pm.

## CORRESPONDENCE

- In Memory of Bernice Ranieri
  - Donations are being collected in Bernice's name to the Friends of the Ridgefield Library.
  - "One of Bernice's favorite poems was Ralph Waldo Emerson's "What is success?": To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty; to find the best in others; to leave the world a bit better whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded! And she did so in spades."
- Flyer for Friend of the Ridgefield Library Monthly Meeting on Wednesday January 15, 2025 at 1pm.
- Metropolitan Plant & Flower Exchange or Metropolitan Farm. Make a purchase of \$50 or more and Metropolitan will donate \$10.
- Ridgefield Public Library are holding a Personal Care Drive and collecting donations at the Friends of the Library Holiday Party on Wednesday December 11.
- Flyer for All Seasons Chamber Players Music Concert on December 28, 2024 at the Library.

## OLD BUSINESS

### Digital Signs

Ken Bruno will review proposals for digital signs. Joanna mentioned RBAO is also ordering digital signs and are aiming to have signs by Spring, so if we order with them we could get a better deal. Mayor Jimenez said that if we'd like to display a message on the sign in front of Town Hall, then we can coordinate with Ken Bruno or Ray Ramirez. We discussed how this would be a good option as Shaler Avenue has more traffic than the library.

### Roof and HVAC

Funds for the Roof have been allocated. DPW will have a meeting on December 19, 2024 and are planning to go out to bid in January. They will hopefully accept by the end of February but we will have more information after they meet on the timeline. Work is expected to start in the spring.

## NEW BUSINESS

No new business was discussed.

## QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Borough Council Library Liaisons Ms. Joanna Leigh Congalton-Hali and Councilman James Kontolios were present. Their comment are as follows:

- Over 500 ornaments were returned for a recent initiative.
- Encouraged anyone not wishing to continue on the library board to inform the team.
- Budget Committee should consult with Frank before ratifying the budget.
- Jimmy, in a previous meeting, offered to donate natural diffusers to the library.
  - Staff training will be provided for diffuser use.
  - This is in response to complaints about chemical air fresheners.
- Updates on the roof and HVAC:

- Replacing the roof and HVAC system will lower heating and cooling bills and improve efficiency.
- All updates are included in the project specifications.
- Expressed gratitude to the library board and trustees, emphasizing the importance of libraries as educational and cultural hubs.

Gail of Abbott Avenue commented on roof issues and asked questions about the Mayor and Council agendas.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:34 pm a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Daisy Jimenez and seconded by Mrs. Bonnie Ilch. The motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Daisy Jimenez